

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, 11-13, and 17-20 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 9, 19, and 20 are independent. Claims 1, 6, 9, 11, and 17-20 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added.

Entry of this Amendment-After-Final is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (because the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout the prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment-After-Final. See M.P.E.P. § 714.12.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION & REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1

On page 4, the Office Action objects to the specification for allegedly failing to provide clear support for certain claims. On pages 6-8, the Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, 11-13, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses these objections and rejections for the reasons listed below.

On pages 6-8, the Office Action alleges that the specification fails to provide support for independent claims 1, 9, 19, and 20. In particular, the Office Action alleges that "Policy Description Protocol" is an error for "Policy Decision Point." In response, Applicant hereby adopts the Examiner's suggestion by amending the claims to recite a "Policy Decision Point" instead of a "Policy Description Protocol." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification and of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 8-14, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2

On pages 8-10, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 9, 11, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

On pages 8-9, the Office Action rejects independent claims 1, 9, 19, and 20 because it is allegedly unclear which element performs the function of establishing services that utilize policy-enabled resources. In response, as recited in paragraph [0018], Applicant responds that policy management is performed by the resource policy layer (RPL), which establishes services across domains in the network. Accordingly, Applicant replaces the passive voice form, "a service being established," with the active voice form, "establishing the particular service."

On page 9, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 9 because it is allegedly unclear how decoupling of policy management from the management of policy-enabled resources is achieved. In response, Applicant notes that Figure 2 depicts “decoupling of policy management and resource management,” illustrating separate lines for policy provisioning and resource discovery.

On page 9, the Office Action alleges that claim 6 is unclear because it recites “a second domain.” In response, Applicant hereby changes the indefinite article “a” to the definite article, “the,” as suggested by the Examiner.

On page 10, the Office Action alleges that “at least one first PDP” is unclear in claim 9. In response, Applicant hereby changes “at least one first” to “a first.”

On page 10, the Office Action alleges that “a main PEP” of claim 11 is ambiguous in claim 11. In response, Applicant hereby changes “a main” to “the first” to remove the alleged ambiguity.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6, 9, 11, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

On pages 10-12, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites the following subject matter: “a network element of the communications network” (emphasis added). This subject matter finds support in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0025]. Applicant respectfully submits that a network element of the communications network does qualify as a “physical part” of an apparatus because a network element is a tangible object. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the communications network itself is also a physical object.

Independent claim 19, as amended, now recites the following subject matter: “a domain on the communications network” (emphasis added). This subject matter also finds support in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0025]. As stated for claim 1 above, the communications network is a physical object.

Because independent claims 1 and 19 both recite a “physical part of a machine,” as stated on page 11 of the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 19 recite statutory subject matter. Claims 2, 6, 8, and 17 depend from independent claim 1, so Applicant respectfully submits that they also recite statutory subject matter.

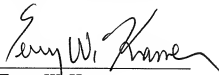
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", written over a horizontal line.

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